

Ocean Ridge Nearshore Reef Project

Project Plan

The Problem

- Waters off the coast of Palm Beach County have some of the most diverse populations of marine organisms along the east coast and are sensitive to changes.
- Shoreline stabilization projects which provide storm protection to beaches can also impact naturally occurring nearshore reefs.

The Solution

- Construct artificial nearshore reefs using limestone boulders and pre-fabricated modules to compensate (or mitigate) for unavoidable impacts.

Project Location

- Starting approximately 250 feet south of the South Lake Worth Inlet running southward approximately 2000 feet along the shoreline.

Benefits

- Provides additional shallow water habitat for hundreds of species of fish, crustaceans, and other marine organisms.
- Adds additional areas for snorkeling, diving, and fishing, reducing pressures on natural reef systems.



Project Overview

- Served as mitigation for the Ocean Ridge Shoreline Protection Project to replace and mimic reefs impacted from the project.
- Site was selected to provide beach park users with additional recreational opportunities for snorkeling and fishing.
- 1-2 ton boulders were placed within discrete piles or reef pods measuring 20' by 40' and spaced 30' apart in 6'-12' of water.
- Approximately 62 reef pods totaling over 5 acres were placed east of the existing nearshore reef where a foundation of rock lies just below the sand providing support for the weight of the new rock.
- The reef pods come within 2' of the water's surface in shallow areas and 6' - 8' in the deeper areas.
- Construction began in September 2009 and was completed January 2010.

Project Partners

PBC Department of Environmental Resources Management, PBC Tourist Development Council, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, United States Army Corps of Engineers



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Department of Environmental Resources Management
2300 North Jog Road - Fourth Floor, West Palm Beach, FL 33411
Phone: 561-233-2400 <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/>

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